

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico in Mexico City May 6, 1997

Mexico-U.S. Antidrug Efforts

Q. President Zedillo, could you——

President Zedillo. The press conference will be later on, and I'll be delighted to answer there any questions.

Q. Well, while we've got this opportunity, let me just clarify what the Mexican Government's position is on DEA agents being allowed——

President Zedillo. No, we'll talk about that in the press conference. Now we have to have our private conversation, and I have spoken about that before.

Thank you.

Q. Do you want DEA agents to stay here——

President Zedillo. We'll speak about all of those issues later.

President's Visit

Q. Mr. President, are you sorry you waited until the 5th year of your Presidency to come to Mexico?

President Clinton. I'm just glad to be here now. You know, we've had—I'm coming to Latin America 3 times in less than a year, and in the first term I did a lot of work on it. You know, we had the Summit of the Americas, and

we had a lot of involvement with Mexico with NAFTA and the difficulty with the peso, so I think we've had a lot of very close contact. And I'm glad to be here. I like it here.

Mexico-U.S. Antidrug Efforts

Q. Mr. President, can you assure DEA agents that they'll be safe here?

President Clinton. We're going to have a press conference later. We'll answer all—on all of the decisions and stuff.

Stock Market

Q. What do you think of the stock market soaring past 7,000?

President Clinton. Americans are happy. They ought to be. The country's doing well. We're going to do better.

Q. Do you think your budget deal is responsible?

President Clinton. It didn't hurt. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:10 a.m. on the Veranda of the Residence at Los Pinos Presidential Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Receiving the Binational Commission Report in Mexico City May 6, 1997

Well, thank you very much. Members of the Mexican Cabinet and the American Cabinet, thank you for your reports and for the specific concrete efforts that you are making to move our relationship forward and to help our peoples.

Secretary Albright commented that the work of the Binational Commission was so broad because our relationship is so broad. This is a truly extraordinary thing to have this many people in our Cabinet, this many people in your Cabinet all working together on a broad range of issues.

Let me say, Mr. President, as you know, I'm particularly gratified also to be joined here by strong bipartisan delegations from the United States Congress that are here from many States along the border, as well as Governor Miller of Nevada, the chairman of the Governors' association in the United States. So we're here because we know that we have to make this relationship work together beyond party politics, within our countries and across our borders.

In the 21st century, we want our border to be our bond, and we want it to be rooted in a mutual commitment to the exchange of people and commerce across the border and to our